The LOGGER'S

# BARK

1916 - RADIO CLUB of TACOMA - 2018

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## Happy Mother's Day! Time to usher in May flowers and warmer weather

I hope everyone who has a mother in their world all had a terrific Mother's Day this year. After a long period of rain and chilly weather, it was great to have Mother's Day fall on such a beautiful day, for families to get out in the sunshine and the much-welcomed warmer weather. Anne N7ANN had a delightful day out in the sun having lunch with her daughters on the waterfront, while I was home planting 20 or more 3-foot tall Douglas Fir seedlings on the new property. It was a nice trade-off. She got to play all day and be pampered with good food and shopping, while I had the peace and solitude of enhancing the beauty that is our new place out in the country in Port Orchard.

### THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

DAVE W7UUU

This month we also received an amazing house-warming gift from Bob Heselberg, K7MXE. Using timber cut last summer from a logging site near Mr. Rainier, over the winter he fashioned an amazing picnic table for our new place. What an astounding piece of work! There are photos and a description elsewhere in the Bark. Big thanks to Bob for this amazing gift for delivering it on a beautiful sunny morning in May. *See pg. 2*

Another big thanks to Bob as well for all his diligence in the research and procurement of the life-saving AED device and its housing, soon to be installed in the clubhouse. Please see elsewhere in the Bark where he outlines the first AED training session, to be given by volunteers from the Tacoma Fire Department. All the details are in that short article so be sure to check it out. *See pg. 3*

And of course, it's also time to mark your calendars! Events Planner Anne N7ANN has booked our location for the annual W7DK summer picnic. It will be Sunday, August 26th beginning at 11:30 until 4:30. Burgers, hot dogs, and beverages will be provided by the club. But everyone please plan to bring a side dish or snacks to share. Folks doing set up can start as early as 10:00 AM. Location is

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the same as last year – Fort Steilacoom Park, Shelter #1 Look elsewhere in the Bark for the official announcement. *See pg. 5*

Anne decided to shake things up a bit for this year's picnic, by adding an Amateur Radio Trivia contest! Everyone in attendance will divide into teams, and the announcer will read the question and each team works together to come up with answers. We then swap scoring sheets to determine the top three winning teams with each member of the top team receiving a prize! We're hoping to have two such trivia sessions, to have a chance to rearrange teams for a second shot. So it's time to start boning up on your amateur radio trivia – who knows what obscure questions will be posed?

I hope everyone has a relaxed, and enjoyable upcoming Memorial Day Weekend, with lots of family time, barbeques, and camping or other activities to mark the beginning of summer. Above all, please take the time to be mindful of the solemn reason for this day, remembering those who have given all while serving in our country's armed forces.

Have a great rest of May everyone, and we'll see you at the next General Meeting on Saturday, June 2nd, at our new location, Eagles Aerie #3, 4810 South Tacoma Way at 1:00 PM.

Dave W7UUU

## Wood Tables from RCT member Bob Heselberg K7MXE

"Big thanks to Bob Heselberg K7MXE for the amazing craftsmanship and gift of a homemade picnic table for the new W7UUU / N7ANN home in Port Orchard. What an awesome house warming gift. The Douglas Fir timber came from a logging site about 1200 feet ASL up in the mountains around Rainier. He assembled the 200+ pound table over this past winter, allowing the wood to drain and cure. The finishing touch was engraving our call signs on the benches. He even delivered it to us, right to its final position, where we further let the sap drain before a good coat of water seal. We've already had our lunch in the sunshine on the new table. Thanks so much, Bob - we love it! 73 Dave W7UUU & Anne N7ANN"

# This and That

One of the most handy gadgets for the ham shack, home, yard, and industrial applications that's come along in the last 50 years has been the Ty-Rap created by Thomas & Bets. Prior to that time, we held wire bundles together with lacing chord, waxed and un-waxed. Always a tedious adventure to get the lacing procedure correct. So since about the time Single Side Band was becoming popular for hams, Ty-Raps have been the way to go for bundling what-ever. However, I always found it a bit irritating the only way to get a Ty-Rap off was to cut it, and most likely to go get a new one when recoiling an extension cord. *See sidebar, ed.*

I recently stumbled onto a better mouse-trap. A Releasable Cable Tie, available from MONOPRICE. This product has a small tab at the base of the locking-receiver that releases the tie. Now I don't have to get a new Tie each time I want to make an adjustment. I've had no problems with durability or reliability. So before you cut a cable tie you did not install, look for the tab.

The only source I've found (so far) is from MONOPRICE, named "Releasable Cable Tie" Part 5801. A bag of 100 12 inch is $3.63 (sale price).
**https://www.monoprice.com/product?p_id=5801**

I've found, over the years, that you can slip a small thin screwdriver like blade into the opening of the locking end piece and lift the 'catch' and release the locking mechanism. If you are careful the Ty-Rap can be reused many times.

From Law enforcement to tire traction devices these useful accessories are invaluable.

Google "Ty-Rap" or "Cable Ties" Images to see examples of the many variations and uses for these cable ties. *Ed.*

That's This and That for now.
Hope you found this helpful. Topic Suggestions & Feedback Welcome.

73's, Steve AF7YD

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## AED / CPR Training

Sunday, 27 May - 9 to Noon at the clubhouse

If you want to attend a 3 hour course put on by Tacoma
Fire Dept. come on the 27th, a Sunday, at 9 am
Please let Bob K7MXE know you're coming so we have enough instructors.
k7mxe@mashell.com CPR has changed, there is no mouth to mouth any more.

## A WORD FROM THE ARRL . . . By Joe Lester, K7ZG

When not attempting to overcome the challenge of low sunspots, many hams in the Pacific Northwest are turning to ham fairs and conventions featuring interesting radio related topics, and often an ARRL Forum where the division director is available to answer questions. This year my wife and I traveled to Visalia, California, to attend the 69th annual international DX convention sponsored by the Southern California DX Club. The Emcee for the event was Chip K7JA, a longstanding member of the Radio Club of Tacoma. Many of the programs had ham radio DX-peditions on display, including Rob N7QT and Brian N7ADG of the Western Washington DX Club, who showed off their operation as VK9MA on Mellish Reef. Brian Fenstermaker K9JF, our former ARRL division director who recently relocated to Skamania County, was on the program to talk about bringing Kosovo into the DXCC and first operations on the air.

On matters of policy and governance, there continues to be some sort of split between those ARRL leaders who favor confidentiality and "corporate" approach to help preserve collegiality in discussions, over a more open or transparent approach promoted by Southwestern Division Director Norton with the support of the Pacific Division director and vice-director. Director Norton enjoys great popularity among ARRL members in his division notwithstanding he has apparently not hesitated to rustle feathers of some other Board members.

There are more opportunities to take a break this summer. For the ARRL members looking for a convention, the ARRL national convention is held annually in Dayton, Ohio, and of course, many are getting the sunscreen ready for a walk on the beach at the SEA-PAC convention at Seaside, Oregon, the first weekend in June.

Our club's affiliation with the ARRL extends back to 1920. In order to retain our status as an ARRL Special Service Club, we need at least 51% ARRL membership. If you'd like to join the ARRL, that would be great. You can do so online on the website arrl.org.

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## Amateur Radio Parity Act Language Inserted in National Defense Authorization Act

Text from the proposed Amateur Radio Parity Act (HR 555) formed the basis for the Courtney-Hartzler-Rogers Amendment to the NDAA.
"The bill *does* entitle each and every Amateur Radio operator living in a deed-restricted community to erect an effective outdoor antenna. That is the principal benefit of this legislation," ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, stressed. "There are tens of thousands of ham radio licensees who now, absent the legislation, cannot erect any outdoor antenna at all. This enables them in the same way PRB-1 has enabled hams to address unreasonably restrictive zoning ordinances during the past 33 years."
Certain conditions apply. Prior to erecting an antenna in a deed-restricted community, an applicant for an outdoor antenna may have to apply to the homeowners association (HOA) for prior approval of the particular antenna system proposed by the ham. The Act would *not* empower an HOA to deny approval of all outdoor antennas. But neither does it entitle radio amateurs residing in deed-restricted subdivisions to erect whatever antennas they want.

# The Doctor is in…

Sponsored by DX Engineering, "ARRL The Doctor is In" is an informative discussion of all things technical. Listen on your computer, tablet, or smartphone -- whenever and wherever you like!

Every 2 weeks, your host, *QST* Editor-in-Chief Steve Ford, WB8IMY, and the Doctor himself, Joel Hallas, W1ZR, will discuss a broad range of technical topics. You can also e-mail your questions to doctor@arrl.org, and the Doctor may answer them in a future podcast.

Enjoy "ARRL The Doctor is In" on Apple iTunes, or by using your iPhone or iPad podcast app (just search for "ARRL The Doctor is In"). You can also listen online at Blubrry, or at Stitcher (free registration required, or browse the site as a guest) and through the free Stitcher app for iOS, Kindle, or Android devices. If you've never listened to a podcast before, download our beginner's guide.

*With permission of ARRL, from email 5/17/18*

# RCT 2018 ANNUAL POTLUCK PICNIC

## Sunday, August 26th, 2018

## 11:30am – 4:30pm

## Fort Steilacoom Park - Shelter #1

## 8714 87th Ave SW, Tacoma, WA

Directly across the street from Western State Hospital (Field Day site)

Join your fellow Radio Club of Tacoma members for a day of festivities, camaraderie, great conversation, fun activities, a possible POTA activation and Paul's famous 'Vittles'
Setup, if needed, starts at 10:00 Am

The RCT, as usual, will provide Hamburgers, Hot dogs, and condiments as well as water and soft beverages
The rest is POTLUCK so bring your favorite side dish, salad, or desert

*"This year, the Radio Club will host an Amateur Radio Trivia contest at the picnic, with three prizes for the teams coming in first, second, and third. So start boning up on your Amateur Radio Trivia and may the best team win!"*

*Absolutely no smoking, vaping, or alcoholic beverages allowed anywhere on park property, including the parking lots.*

# Contesting update

We started in March with the ARRL DX SSB contest. There was little notice for club members to prepare for this event but we still had a nice turnout. What makes this contest unique is that the DX stations are looking for W/VE stations. We were the sought after stations. The result was that the log was filled with exotic call signs giving us a score of 46080 points.

Next was the Rookie Roundup in April. For this contest Mike W7MKE called on the recent graduates of Stephen AD7AB's technician classes. Five new hams turned out and for several of those this was the first time on HF. We did have some nervous starts but you could see as the contest progressed that they gained in skill and confidence. The result was 29 QSO's for a score of 2117points giving us 1st in category and region.

With more of an understanding of running contests at the club house, in May we setup for the 7th area QSO contest or 7QP as it is known. For us this contest is about finding and working hams outside of the 7th area and for non 7 area hams to find and work WA, ID, OR, NV, MT, WY, UT, AZ stations. Much of the 7th area is located in the least populated part of the US making it difficult for county hunters to fill in their county maps. For 48 hours many hams travel to rare counties to give others a chance fill in those empty spots. Turnout was great for this event. We saw some new faces using the club stations, which is the goal. My learning curve is constantly being challenged by all the new requirements to be successful. Being assisted by many in the club is the only reason any of this is possible. We logged 657 QSO's, 55 multipliers and 1462 points for a score of 80,410 points.

Next up is Field Day which is being headed by my friend Adam W2NCC. Please give him your full support. Stay informed about upcoming club activities by reading your Bark and logging into the Club Website. There will be more contesting at the club house so stay tuned.

Al, N7OMS

*Even if you don't operate, these contest sessions are very educational and fun. So come and try it out. Ed.*

*Rich Patrick KR7W and Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE operate Rich's vintage Galaxy SSB during the 7QP contest.*

# Amateur Radio Emergency Service

May 2018

Greetings,
This continues a series of articles about amateur radio and emergency communications and Pierce County District 5 ARES. Amateur Radio Emergency Service. (ARES) is an ARRL organization dedicated to supporting Amateur Radio Emergency Communications skills and preparedness.

**Some background…**
Pierce County ARES District 5 manages ARES activity, training, exercises, and skill development. Pierce County ARES supports and meets at the Pierce County Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
Over the past few weeks, ARES has been active in training and exercising.

**ORTING SCHOOL LAHAR EXERCISE**
On May 4, 2018 the Pierce County ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) Orting EOC section held its first supported event for the city of Orting and OVFR (Orting Valley Fire Rescue) for the Orting School District annual Lahar Drill. The drill involved all the students walking from their school to an area behind the Washington State Soldier's Home reaching 35 feet above the valley floor. Last year's time was 55 minutes to reach the staging area. This year, the students shattered their record by 13 minutes.
ARES Orting EOC, with the assistance of five other ARES members supported the event. The initial planning was for a single ARES member to watch and answer questions that the Fire Department and Police might have during the event. Just days before the event, the Fire Chief requested additional support to include five check points along the route. ARES provided the additional requested members just days before the event. Many thanks to the ARES members who participated in the exercise.

**The operators were:**
Stan Nelson, K7DKK , Pierce County ARES District Emergency Coordinator
Lorraine Nelson, K7LJN, South Pierce Emergency Coordinator
Rob Wiggins, K7KXO, Pierce County ARES Assistant District Emergency Coordinator
Jon Hamilton, AD7AW, ARES Member
Whit Worcester, KG7LNZ, ARES Member
Dave Rait, KC7AF, Orting Radio Officer

**ARRL 2017 Hurricane Season After Action**
For information on the ARRL and Red Cross amateur radio operations last fall, see the following:
http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/ARES/2017%20Hurricane%20Season%20AAR.pdf
Pierce County District 5 Website http://www.piercecountyares.net/web
ARES Membership Application http://www.piercecountyares.net/web/application
ARES Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/PierceCountyARES/files/
ARES Information and Communications Plan frequencies:
For Team and EOC frequencies and other ARES activities at the W7DK.org Website, using the following link:
http://www.w7dk.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=46&Itemid=111

**Coming Events/Training**
*(Unless otherwise indicated location is Pierce County Emergency Operations Center)*
17 May 2018: 7pm Thursday **Voice Message Traffic Handling and Drill –** N7SOI Patrick Niles

1-3 June, SEAPAC Northwest Division Convention, Seaside Oregon
21 June, 7 pm Thursday **Antennas, NVIS, HF** W7BBO Mark Yordy
30 June, Statewide quarterly Emergency Exercise Preparation
30 June, 9 to Noon Saturday – Quarterly EmComm Statewide Exercise

**ARES Meetings**
ARES District 5 Meets Monthly on the Third Thursday at 7 pm at the Pierce County Emergency Operations Center. Meetings always have a program, normally an EmComm Training Focus.

Larry Watson KD4VOM
Secretary Pierce County ARES
Kd4vom@mailcan.com

*When you need amateur radio, you really need it!*

# Make your plans now for FIELD DAY and the RADIO CLUB of TACOMA PICNIC

## Radio Club of Tacoma SPRING SALE MAY-JUNE 2018

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | HF XCVR IC-725 SN: 12687 | $200.00 |
| 2. | HF XCVR IC-718 SN: 11390 | $300.00 |
| 3. | MFJ-941E versa tuner II | $100.00 |
| 4. | MFJ-931 artificial gnd | $50.00 |
| 5. | Millen Grid Oscillator | $150.00 |
| 6. | Hallicrafters HF Receiver S-38A | $30.00 |
| 7. | Yaesu HF XCVR FT-301S & PS FP 301 | $150.00 |
| 8. | Dentron Super Tuner plus | $60.00 |
| 9. | MFJ Ant Tuner MFJ-986 | $200.00 |
| 10. | B & W Ant Tuner VS-300A | $100.00 |
| 11. | Yaesu Monitor Scope YO-301 | $150.00 |
| 12. | ICOM UHF ALL MODE XCVR IC-IS-471A | $125.00 |
| 13. | Yaesu HF PWR AMP FL-2100B | $400.00 |

Looking for something or just curious? Check out the assortment of "used but good" radio gear in inventory. There may be something that will improve your shack or add to your enjoyment of ham radio. Make a reasonable offer to the PMT and it could be yours.

The PMT has new items for sale. The items are available to see/purchase every Saturday. Contact any PMT member to see the items. There are also HF radios from previous lists for sale. Club members may make an offer to the PMT. Most reasonable offers will be accepted. Remember that the money collected from the sale of these items goes to the club's piggy bank to support club radio equipment. Many accessory items are on sale every Saturday by the PMT. In April, we collected over $90.00 dollars for more than 20 different odds and ends selling for as little $1.00. We hope to see you at the club house for our open house most Saturdays.
73, RED WB7EC

SEAPAC – NORTHWESTERN DIVISION ARRLCONVENTION: The Northwest's Largest Ham Convention". SEA-PAC is June 1, 2 and 3, 2018. The ARRL Northwestern Division Convention Seaside Convention Center, 415 First Avenue, Seaside, OR 97138. Best venue in the Country…for Hams and their families and it's at the beach!! Registration and schedule can be found at: https://www.seapac.org/

## Submissions for the Newsletter — P. J. Hicks N7PH ed.

I want to thank all those who have submitted material for *The Logger's BARK* and let you know how much it is appreciated. Without your support it could not be done. There are, however, some potholes in the road. After 4 issues I find I must lay down some rules to standardize the material and save many long hours of re-working the submissions. I'm flexible, but please make every effort to follow these guidelines… Please!

1. Pictures can be any size and the higher the resolution the better. Cropping is easy & Focus, Focus, Focus!
2. Please add captions to/for pictures especially to portraits or discrete items as I may not know the people or the gear in question. Name and call sign for people; model number/brands for gear.
3. Text should be in MS Word format. Use 12 pt. Calibri font if possible. Plain text format is OK as a second alternative but requires a lot of work to reformat. Submissions that come in "camera ready" and already formatted for cut and paste are wonderful. TU.
4. Please submit date sensitive material at least 4 weeks before the event so readers can schedule.

## Soldering Aid

I recently read an article in the *April 2018 QRP QUARTERLY, pg. 20* describing how to modify one of these $30 Student Dental Loupe head pieces into a 'SolderScope'. It occurred to me that it is possible to use this loupe setup for soldering and circuit inspection without any modification at all. And while the QQ project is 'enhanced', the 420mm ( 16") working distance and 3.5X magnification with a 2.3" field is adequate for most jobs. Check out the QRP Quarterly article and search on eBay for Student Dental Loupes and stop struggling with your nose right down on the PCB. The safety glasses and flip up feature make them useful for other than building chores as well. *Ed. pjh*

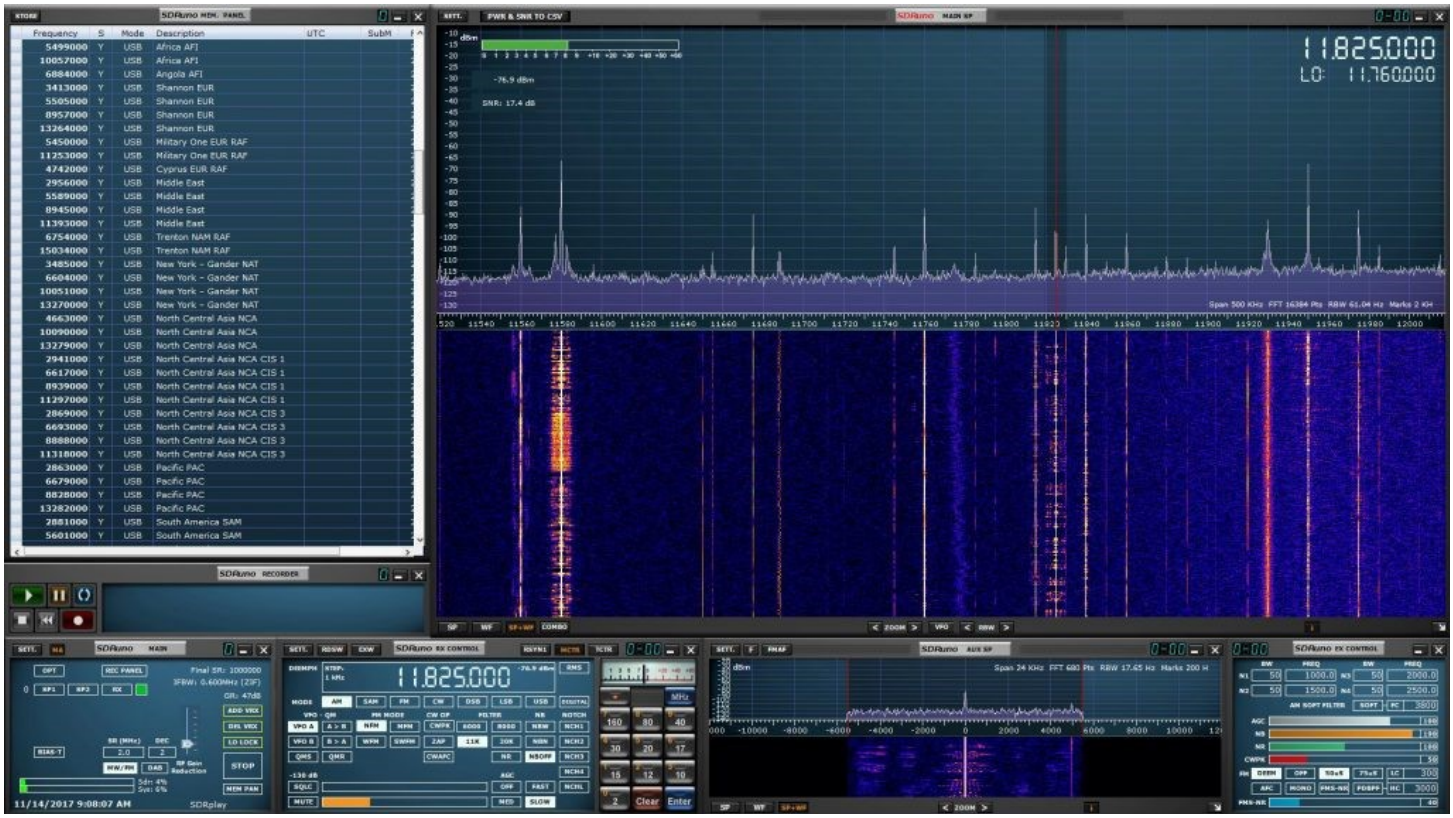
# Product Showcase - 14 bit SDR Play 1 kHz to 2 GHz Receiver

RSP1A

RSP2

RSP2pro

An impressive list of features make this little SDR receiver stand out as a very useful addition to your shack. Not only does the tiny rig receive from 1 kHz to 2 GHz but it will display up to 10 MHz of spectrum using its included companion software, SDRuno; a great package. The units are also supported by at least a half dozen other SDR software programs such as HDSDR, SDR Console, and SDR# giving you many options. Many users have set up the units as panadapters to bring SDR like displays to older 'analog' radios. All the SDRPlay rigs are powered through the USB connection and require a computer to interface to the outside world. The computer need not be a high power one but good graphics capability is very desirable. A couple of RCT members are using the Minix micro computer ($120 and up depending on model etc.) as a dedicated host computer with excellent results. Physically all three versions are about 4.5 inches square and 1 inch tall exclusive of the connectors. The RSP1A sells for about $100; the RSP2 goes for around $120 to $150 depending on sales and where you get it; and the RSP2pro sells in the neighborhood of $200 to $235. See https://www.sdrplay.com/ for full details. And here; https://www.sdrplay.com/community/ for support. 73, P. J. Hicks N7PH, editor



# This is your one stop reference resource for all things Morse code and CW!

You'll find all kinds of useful, helpful and interesting resources here to help you learn Morse code and be a better CW operator.

**Organizations;**
**CWOps** - Our goal is to bring together Amateur Radio operators who enjoy communicating by Morse Code (CW). CWops encourages the use of CW in Amateur communications, and it supports CW activity through planned events. CWops promotes goodwill among Amateurs throughout the world, and it fosters the education of young people and others in matters related to Amateur Radio.
**FISTS CW Club** - FISTS is a well established and recognized CW (Morse Code) organization in the world of amateur radio. Founded in 1987 by Geo Longden, G3ZQS, it now has a world-wide membership in the thousands and growing daily. What FISTS wants to accomplish; 1. To further the use of CW on the amateur bands, 2. To encourage newcomers to the CW mode, 3. To engender friendship within the membership.
**Straight Key Century Club (SKCC)** - The ***Straight Key Century Club (SKCC)*** is the fastest growing group of mechanical-key CW operators in the world. First organized in January 2006, our club has grown rapidly to include thousands of licensed amateur-radio operators from all corners of the globe. Here's how it works; Membership is **free,** SKCC numbers are issued for life. Once you get it, it's yours, Exchange numbers using a straight key, bug, or side-swiper.
**North American QRP CW Club (NAQCC)** - No dues or membership fees - open to any licensed radio amateur or shortwave listener (SWL) worldwide with at least some interest in CW/QRP operation. Encouraging the use of CW and helping all hams increase CW speed and proficiency is a top club priority. Club activities are dedicated to QRP/QRPp operation, using CW and emphasize using simple wire antennas.
**First Class CW Operators Club (FOC)** - Founded in 1938, and with its roots, history and management in the UK, the First Class CW Operators' Club (FOC) promotes good CW (Morse code) operating, activity, friendship and socializing via its worldwide membership of approximately 500. Members are active on all HF bands and the character of the club is best expressed in its motto. "A man should keep his friendship in constant repair" - Samuel Johnson (1755)
**QRP ARCI** - QRP Amateur Radio Club International - QRP ARCI is a club for low power enthusiasts worldwide. We produce a professional quality magazine (QRP Quarterly), organize an annual conference at Dayton ('Four Days In May' or FDIM), and sponsor various QRP contests and awards. Our aim is to promote QRP and a variety of related activities. Many of our members enjoy home construction, kit building, antenna experimentation, backpacking and portable operation. Minimalist radios built in small tins are very popular but we also enjoy the very latest high performance radios such as the Elecraft KX3, Ten-Tec Argonaut and the Open-HPSDR.

**PDFs ;**
**The Art and Skill of Radio-Telegraphy**, by William G. Pierpont NØHFF, Third Revised Edition July 6, 2ØØ1
**Zen and the Art of Radio Telegraphy**, by Carlo Consoli, IK0YGJ, Rev. 20100209
**Learning Morse Code as a Language**, by J. A. (Jack) Ritter W0UCE, Version 2.6 – June, 2015
**To 20 WPM and Higher - Here's Some Ideas**, by Jim Reid KH7M
**Improving Morse Code Proficiency; Tricks of the Trade Overcoming Common Problems**, by J. A. (Jack) Ritter W0UCE
**Chris Bravo's Free Book, "The Road to CW"**
**Chris Bravo's 'Portable Ops' Presentation PDF Version**
**Chris Bravo's 'Portable Ops' Presentation Power Point Version**

**Links to Interesting Morse/CW Sites;**
**VKCW.net** - CW in Australia, this site provides information for CW (Morse Code) radio operators in VK (*) and lists numerous activities you can participate in. Lots of good information!

**Android Apps;**
**Morse Trainer for Ham Radio**
**Morse Machine for Ham Radio**
**IZ2UUF Morse Koch CW**
**Morse Code Trainer**

**iPhone Apps;**
**Ham Morse**
**Dah Dit - Morse Code Tutor**

Windows/PC Software
**G4FON Morse Code Trainer**
**Morse Runner PC Software**
**RufzXP PC Software**
**G4FON Contest Trainer**

***Reprinted with permission from the DitDit.fm podcast***

The PNW80 slow-speed CW social net has changed its net start time from 5pm local to 7pm local on Thursday evenings. This change is being made to accommodate both daylight savings time and the seasonal progression of sunset. The net frequency continues to be 3556.5 MHz. Everyone is welcome to join our languid CW roundtable, usually hosted by Stewart KE7LKW. The net exists specifically to encourage new practitioners of CW as well as those wishing to brush up on code skills. RCT members John N7TES and Randy WB4SPB are frequent participants. We hope to hear more of you in the future.

# The CW Practice Net

One of the great gifts on the bands is the *CW Practice Net at 0800 PDT, on 3970 KHz (or 3.970 MHz).* Each day, a group of hams under the tutelage of AE7PG, practice CW, regardless of your current speed. REMEMBER: everyone starts at the same level. Remember, if you only have a Technician Class License you can still listen and practice *(copying; ed.).*

For the past six years, SCARC *(Sussex County Amateur Radio Club)* member and past Board member AE7PG - Al, now living in Chelan, WA, founded and hosts the daily 3970 CW Practice Net. Al continues to unselfishly volunteer, Monday through Saturday, pounding brass every week for this fun and unusual 75M phone subband interactive CW practice net. He will take on all interested radio operators who wish to learn Morse Code or brush up on their code proficiency. General through Extra Class operator check-ins are always welcome! But, anyone can listen and copy along...In early February 2018, KF7QNS - Helen, who is one of the 3970 Net Control Ops and one of Al's first CW protégés, contacted net regulars and anyone else whom benefited from Al's great work on this LSB/CW net! She requested a personal letter to be sent to the CWops Award Committee, written in support of Al's nomination and detailing his accomplishment and continuous work to advance the art of CW! Al qualified for the CWops award as a CW mentor, trainer, and instructor, for publicly advocating the CW mode, and as an organizer of a CW activity. And as you would guess, many letters were submitted in favor of Al's nomination! Helen stated in her nominating letter, "I personally obtained my ham license at the age of 70 and then became interested in CW, just shortly prior to being introduced to Al. Since then, because of Al, I am now a CW net control on WSN (ed. Washington State Net -3.563 MHz) on Monday mornings and check into several other CW nets and handle traffic using CW, something I thought I would NEVER be able to do!" On Wednesday April 18th, we all learned that Al had been chosen by CWops for their award and handsome wall plaque! The actual award ceremony and announcement will take place in May at the Dayton Hamvention! Al will not travel to Dayton, Ohio to accept the award, but has instead chosen to receive his prestigious CWops award by mail. According to Al, he expects the plaque and official letter to arrive in about 30 days! Well-deserved congratulations Al!

*Ed. Above text was taken as written from the ARRL Northwest Division Email of 5/1/2018 with permission.*

# The Classic Exchange (by Randy WB4SPB)

On Sunday Feb 18 and Tuesday Feb 20, the W7OS Antique Radio Museum crew reprised our previous month's effort in the Classic Exchange (CX) contest. But while January was the CW portion of the contest, February was for operating classic AM, SSB and FM rigs on the HF bands. In CX, QSO points are multiplied by the total age of transmitters and receivers that were used (transceivers count twice, since they have one of each).

This time we did a bit more promotion than usual and attracted three additional club members to operate: Mike W7MKE, Mike W7XTZ and Adam W2NCC. Rich KR7W and Randy WB4SPB played host for the event and made a few contacts as well.

The bulk of the operational equipment in the Museum's collection has traditionally been CW gear, so we've lately begun working to make vintage phone rigs available as well. The Museum's Drake TR4 was ready for CX, but since we planned to enter in the "3 rigs or less" category, we rounded out our compendium of operable radio sets with Rich's Galaxy III and Randy's Drake T4X transmitter (the latter to be used with the Museum's Collins 75A4 receiver). The total age of the assembled equipment was 324 years.

We made 63 QSOs, mostly in late morning and early afternoon, and all on 20M. Most QSOs were with people who were not, themselves, participating in the event. They just thought it would be fun to contact someone operating an old radio. The Galaxy III, a three-band (80/40/20) sideband transceiver from 1965, was surprisingly popular. Using this radio, Mike W7XTZ enjoyed a 35-minute uninterrupted string of QSOs, after which Mike W7MKE took over and was busy for another 15 minutes. Many of the people we talked to had never heard of a Galaxy III, although some were familiar with the later and more common Galaxy V.

Hams who *were* participating in CX contacted us with radio sets from Swan, Drake, Tempo, Hallicrafters, Collins, RCA, and Heathkit.

We looked around for AM participants, as we could have operated that mode using the Drake equipment, but nothing was heard. We completely struck out on 40M and 75M, probably because we weren't

able to operate during the evenings.

Our submitted score, combining the CW and phone portions of the event, was 39502 points. After looking at results for the last couple of CX events, we think this score is pretty respectable.

The Fall Classic Exchange is in September (CW) and October (phone), so please consider joining-in then and in other activities as we put the W7OS Museum on the air.

*I need to apologize to the Bark readers for the lateness of this article. It just plain fell through the cracks. It is, however, an interesting and informative example of the type of activities the club supports and encourages. pjh, ed.*

# FIELD DAY IS COMING

**VOLUNTEER—PREPARE— GET INVOLVED**

## In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead.
Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from falling hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields

Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae on May 3, 1915

***Take a moment May 28, Memorial Day, to reflect on and honor the fallen who gave all so we might have all***

Radio Club of Tacoma
General Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2018

**Meeting called to order** at 1330 PDT by President Dave W7UUU at **the Eagles Aerie #3 Hall**

**Officers and Directors Present**

| | |
|---|---|
| President | Dave Ellison W7UUU |
| Vice President | Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ |
| Secretary | Mike Finnie W7MWF |
| Board | Red Cranefield WB7EC |
| Board | Phil Pia K7PIA |

**Pledge of Allegiance** led by Mike W7MWF

**Health and Welfare**

Silent Keys and Illness It was reported that long-time member Bob Gates K7IND RCT#568 became a silent key on February 28.

**Welcome and Self-Introductions**

Guests present were Gordy K7LAU and James KI7TPO. Members who have been away for a while but able to make the meeting were Scott NB7N and Past President Jeff K7JF.

New Calls Kerry KI7LTV has upgraded to a General Class license.

Self-introductions were completed. There were 34 names on the sign-in sheet.

Refreshments were graciously provided by Anne N7ANN and Dave W7UUU

**Secretary's Report** Mike W7MWF reported that the usual Correspondence was received. Additionally, the following items have been completed: IRS Form 990-N 2017 Report of Exempt Organizations Filed | 2018 Annual ARRL Affiliated Club Report filed | Pierce County Assessor Personal Property Tax Declaration 2018 filed (added 2 new radios) | WA Secretary of State - 2018 Annual Corporate Report filed

**Treasurer's Report** On behalf of Steve AF7YD Mike W7MWF reports all deposits made and all current bills paid.

**Committee / Activity Reports**

| | |
|---|---|
| Membership | George K7GRS reported that membership stands at 253. |
| Training | Technician Class cancelled this weekend. Next class is scheduled for Jun 9/10<br>Dave N7HT reports that a General Class license training will be held April 16 through June 18, 2018 |
| VE Report | The next VE Sessions will be held April 10 and May 8 |

HF Operations Phil K7PIA reported that HF Station Ops are running along very well. A relay buffer has been ordered to enable configuration of the Flex radio to the Henry amplifier. Al N7OMS reported on upcoming operating events.

Repeater Ops Rich KR7W and Al N7OMS APRS Digi-Peater will be installed in the future.

IT Report Randy WB4SPB provided an update on the status of the IT infrastructure. It was noted that we have a new ISP hosting the website and members were encouraged to contact Randy if any problems encountered.

Museum Rich reported on new acquisitions to the museum, and invited members to review articles about the museum in the upcoming April issue of the Loggers Bark

Facilities Mgmt It was announced that Fascia board had been installed on garage and for gutter installation is being solicited; testing smoke detectors in clubhouse will be accomplished. Teams are still working out logistics on garage door replacement. The tree in SW corner of property will be pruned. Electric panel upgradeson hold pending attic cleanout, etc. It was also reported that a plan is afoot to install a new tower near the garage to replace the mast going through the garage roof.

Prop Mgmt Red WB7EC announced that club swap sales in March netted $91.50. He also advised that the club has received a sizeable donation and some items will be made available for purchase after inventory, pricing, and board clearance is completed.

4th Weds Activity Night - TBD

**New Business** No new business was brought to the meeting for consideration.

**Unfinished Business and Announcements**

**Upcoming Hidden Transmitter Hunt** – Sunday May 20, 2018 Fort Nisqually Shelter Area, Pt. Defiance Park

**Attenuator Construction** – See KR7W article in the March 2018 issue of the Loggers Bark for info on attenuator construction

**ARDF Yagi Construction** – KR7W will be hosting 2 Saturday (April 21 and April 28) antenna building sessions. Watch email/website/posters for dates and more specific details including material requirements and costs.

**Verna KF7SCB** gave members an overview of the purpose and deployment of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) device. The acquisition of a device is being considered by the board. Discussion and questions followed. Thank you, Verna for the informative presentation.

**Field Day** updates – on behalf of Adam W2NCC, Mike W7MWF reported that a new 20x30 tent had been purchased. A Rocket Launcher training session is planned and announcements will be made when firmly scheduled.

**Dave W7UUU** reported that the BOD had authorized purchase of new projector for classroom

**Program** This afternoon's program will be a presentation by the John Coyne, a Trustee of the Eagles Aerie #3 about their facility and about the Eagles Club in general. He outlined their mission and activities, and invited RCT members to consider joining. The Eagles offered a reduced price for the application fee to all club members. Thank you, John for your presentation and for making your facility available to our club.

**Tuning and Traffic** Mike W7MWF reported receiving QSL Cards from both Steve Franke K9AN and Joe Taylor K1JT, the two developers of FT-8 digital protocol.

**Door Prize** A coffee cup and tee shirt were won by Dave N7HT.

**Raffle Prize** A Heathkit code oscillator kit was won by Mike W7XTZ and given to Lloyd AG7CX

**Adjournment** The meeting was adjourned at 1450 PDT

Loading up

FIELD DAY is COMING SOON

Checking in & greeting visitors

Pictures from June 2012 Field Day at Western State Hospital Grounds

Raising Antennas

Making Contacts

Radio Club of Tacoma
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2018

**Meeting called to order** at 1900 PDT by Vice President Mike W7XTZ.

**Officers and Directors Present**

| | |
|---|---|
| Vice President | Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ |
| Secretary | Mike Finnie W7MWF |
| Treasurer | Steve Dightman AF7YD |
| Board | Bruce Hanson WE7P |
| Board | Adam Barbera W2NCC |
| Board | Red Cranefield WB7EC |
| Board | Phil Pia K7PIA |

**Quorum?** A quorum was present. 11 members signed the attendance roster.

**Silent Key or Illness?** It was noted that long time member Bob Gates K7IND had become a silent key in late February.

**Minutes** of the March 7, 2018 Board Meeting were approved as circulated and coordinated.

**Secretary's Report** Mike W7MWF reported that the usual correspondence had been received. He also reported that the following items have been completed:

IRS Form 990-N 2017 Report of Exempt Organizations Filed
2018 Annual ARRL Affiliated Club Report filed
Pierce County Assessor Personal Property Tax Declaration 2018 filed (added 2 new radios)
WA Secretary of State - 2018 Annual Corporate Report filed

**Treasurer's Report** Steve AF7YD reported that deposits had been made and bill payments were current.

**Committee / Reports**

Membership Mike W7MKE reported that membership stood at 253. There was discussion regarding possible solutions to increase new member retention. Several ideas will be further researched.

Training
-Tech License Training April 7/8
-VE Testing April 10
-Dave N7HT reports that another General Class license training will be held April 16 through June 18, 2018

Info - Tech Randy WB4SPB submitted a formal report on condition of the IT infrastructure, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. He will also investigate whether or not the club as W7DK can obtain a paid membership with QRZ.com for lookups.

HF Operations Phil K7PIA advised that most recent activity has focused on FT-8 due to band conditions. The Flex radio and new rotator are working well. Rookie Roundup (phone) is coming up on April 15. The HF station needs a relay buffer to integrate the Henry amplifier with the Flex.

Repeater Ops It was the consensus that the repeaters all seem to be working fine.

Facilities Mgmt. Al N7OMS reported that the garage had been tidied up and new fascia boards had been installed on the garage. Next step will be gutter installation and he will contact possible installers for bids.

Property Mgmt. Bruce WB7EC reported March monthly sales of $91.50. He and his team are also processing a large donation from the estate of Bob Gates K7IND.

Museum No report

Weds Workshop Presentation Topic TBA

General Meeting Welcome to new meeting facility and overview of Eagles Club will be the topic of the presentation on April 7.

**Unfinished Business**

Garage Door replacement status and any other unfinished rehab tasks – still being coordinated.

Sidewalk edging (Mike W7MWF and Jan K7HTU do annually and will be accomplished as time/wx permit)

*ACTION*Tree removal proposal tabled from last month – Following discussion, it was moved and seconded to leave the fir trees alone but to prune the large deciduous tree at the southwest corner of the property. Motion carried.

AED – any further info from Tech Soup, etc. – Steve AF7YD advised no response from Tech Soup. Al N7OMS had another suggestion for a free unit. Following discussion, it was moved and seconded to table action until the May board meeting in order to secure additional information regarding AED units. Motion carried. Al N7OMS will contact Verna KF7SCB for her input as a health care professional. Al will also research an additional source for a possible donation of an AED unit.

Updates on arrangement with ARES for email broadcast utilization. Randy reported that Pierce County ARES bulletins will be bundled with general RCT email broadcasts when feasible and timely.

Upstairs electric panel rehab update – Al N7OMS advised additional tasks pending cleaning of the attic space. A copy of Al's email to the board is filed with these minutes.

**New Business**

Adam W2NCC reported on the acquisition/purchase of party tent for Field Day. It was moved and seconded to reimburse Adam $344.10 for the cost of the tent. Motion carried.

Adam W2NCC reported donation of tower from K7IND. He suggested installation of the tower near the garage to replace the mast currently affixed to the garage roof. Removal and recovery of the donated tower from the K7IND will be accomplished by individuals as a non-RCT sanctioned project.

Stephen AD7AB – by email requested a new projector in the class room. The existing projector is seriously failing & no longer serviceable. A copy of Stephen's email is filed with these minutes. Randy WB4SPB reported that he had identified 2 suitable projectors for possible purchase. It was moved and seconded to authorize purchase of a ViewSonic PA503W projector for approximately $360. Motion carried.

Rich KR7W submitted by email a proposal to build a "Safety Center" at the clubhouse. It was the consensus that such a project would be worthwhile, and would be further considered when/if the AED unit is acquired. A copy of Rich's proposal is filed with these minutes.

**Activity Reports and Discussion Topics**

**The board was reminded that a** Hidden Transmitter Hunt is scheduled at Ft. Nisqually on May 20th

Rich KR7W emailed that on April 21 & April 28 he will sponsor and host Tape Measure Antenna Building workshops @ the Clubhouse 10:30 a.m. A copy of Rich's email is filed with these minutes.

Al N7OMS submitted a proposal for the fabrication and installation of APRS Digi-peater at clubhouse. A copy of an email from Rich KR7W regarding technical issues and rationale/feasibility is filed with these minutes. Following discussion, it was moved and seconded to permit and support the installation of a digipeater under the auspices and guidance of the Repeater Committee. Motion carried.

Adam W2NCC provided Field Day Planning updates

Adam W2NCC gave an update on the MFJ Bulk Purchase opportunity. Order has been submitted and shipment is expected soon.

Rich KR7W – By email, he raised the issue of the condition of smoke detectors and batteries. Bruce WE7P will conduct testing and evaluation and report to the board following evaluation. A copy of the email from Rich is filed with these minutes.

Attendees were reminded that the April General Meeting will be held Saturday April 7 1:00 PM at the Eagles Club, as will subsequent General Meetings on the first Saturday of each month.

Phil K7PIA requested authorization of expense of $50.00 to purchase a relay buffer for the Flex/Henry station. Moved, seconded and approved.

**Adjournment** was at 2035 PDT.

# The Club LINEUP

## Club Officers

**President: Dave Ellison, W7UUU - w7uuu@w7dk.org**

**Vice Pres: Mike Mikuchonis, W7XTZ - w7xtz@w7dk.org**

**Secretary: Mike Finnie, W7MWF - w7mwf@w7dk.org**

**Treasurer: Steve Dightman, AF7YD - af7yd@w7dk.org**

## 5 Board Members

**Bruce Hanson, WE7P - we7p@w7dk.org**

**Paul Matney, W7PFU - w7pfu@w7dk.org**

**Adam Barbera, W2NCC - w2ncc@w7dk.org**

**Red Cranefield, WB7EC - wb7ec@w7dk.org**

**Phil Pia, K7PIA - k7pia@w7dk.org**

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**Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is $35 per calendar year. $30 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay $20 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Full-time students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are $20 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.**

**www.w7dk.org [LINK] - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website.**

## Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5

Crawford Mountain 147.380 + PL=103.5 (E of Olympia @ 1500 ft ASL)

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

North Tacoma: 145.21 – PL=141.3